

Message Text

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CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

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SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6677

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS ENRG CA US

SUBJ NATURAL GAS EXPORT POLICY

1. CANADIAN PRESS OF JUNE 10 REPORTS THAT ENERGY MINISTER MACDONALD STATED JUNE 9 THAT NEW FEDERAL POLICY ON EXPORTS OF NATURAL GAS TO THE U.S. WILL LIKELY BE RELEASED IN EARLY JULY. WHILE REPORTEDLY DECLINING TO COMMENT ON THE CONTENTS OF THE NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD (NEB) REPORT, MACDONALD SAID HE HOPED TO TAKE RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE CABINET IN THE NEAR FUTURE FOR A DECISION ON GOC POLICY. ONE MAJOR CONSIDERATION, HE SAID, WILL BE THE "IMPACT ON OUR EXTERNAL RELATIONS". HE ALSO STATED THAT UPON RELEASE OF THE REPORT "WE PLAN TO MAKE A POLICY STATEMENT AT THE SAME TIME SO WE WON'T CREATE NEEDLESS APPREHENSION ABOUT WHAT WE'LL DO."

2. PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT "ENERGY DEPARTMENT SOURCES" SAY THE LONG LIST OF NEB RECOMMENDATIONS CALLS FOR NO IMMEDIATE ACTION ON EXPORTS, BUT SUGGESTS A STATEMENT OF WHAT THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT DO IF DOMESTIC SHORTAGES OCCUR.
PORTER

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